

# P R E A M B L E,

T O B E

Subscribed by all Persons, who shall become Adventurers in a NATIONAL JOYNT STOCK,  
for the Trade to *East-India*.



THE Committee of the Honourable House of Commons, Appointed to Consider of the most proper Method for Managing the *East India Trade*, to a more General and Publick Benefit to the Whole NATION than it has hitherto been; Having Declared their Opinion, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of this Instant *January*, That the best Way of Managing that Trade, is by a NEW COMPANY with a NEW JOYNT STOCK, to be Established by Act of PARLIAMENT.

WE whose Names are hereafter Written, upon the aforesaid Encouragement, and in Dependance upon such an Establishment, by Authority of KING and PARLIAMENT; as also in farther Assurance, That the present *East India Stock* and the Estates and Persons of the Managers thereof, shall, by the said Authority, be obliged to Pay and Satisfie all Just Debts and Demands due to the Subjects of the *Great Mogoll* and *King of Siam*, and all other Natives of *India*; either for Monies Borrowed on Credit, or for Injuries and Violences Committed; and That the said present Stock shall Defray the Charge of making Peace with the said *Indian Princes*. DOE HEREBY, each Man for himself, severally oblige ourselves to become Adventurers in the said NATIONAL-JOYNT-STOCK, for the particular Sums of Money by Us hereunto respectively Subscribed, to be paid in Manner and Form following: (*Viz.*)

One fourth part thereof within three Months after the said Act of *Parliament* hath passed; and those who shall pay in their Money sooner, shall have Interest allowed for the same.

One other Fourth part thereof within Six Months after the Expiration of the said Three Months;

And the remaining Half at such several Payments as the *Governour* and *Committees*, to be appointed for the Management of this STOCK shall think fit, giving three Months Publick Notice for the said Payments.

And we doe hereby farther Agree, as followeth; (*viz.*)

That the Books for Subscriptions shall lye open *Sixty Days*, from the One and Twentieth day of *January* Instant; or, until the Sum of *Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds* be Subscribed, and then to be Closed, unless the *Parliament* in their Great Wisdom shall otherwise Direct.

That no Person shall be Admitted to Subscribe for himself, or any other, or to be Concerned in the said Stock, either in his Own or any others Name, directly or indirectly, any greater Sum than *Ten Thousand Pound*, or to Subscribe any less Sum than *one Hundred Pound*.

That when the Sum of *Four Hundred Thousand Pound* shall be Subscribed, Publick Notice shall be given thereof, and a General Meeting of the *Adventurers* Summoned, for the choosing a Committee, to act on behalf of the said STOCK, for the more speedy obeyning the said Act of *Parliament*, upon such a Constitution, and with such Powers and Priviledges as to the Wisdom of the *Parliament* shall seem meet; and to do such other matters as shall be given them in Charge by the *General Court*.

That at all *General Courts* of *Adventurers*, every Member who hath Subscribed *Five Hundred Pound* shall have one Vote, and that no greater Sum at first Subscribed, or afterwards Purchased, shall Entitle any Adventurer to more than one single Vote; the contrary whereof hath been found so fatally Pernicious to the *Nation* and the present Company.

And for the more Regular and Orderly Management of this *National Joynt Stock* for the PUBLICK GOOD, WE the *Adventurers* do hereby farther Oblige our Selves, to the faithful Observance of these and such other farther Rules and Orders for Managing of the said Trade, during the Continuance of this Stock, as shall from time to time be made by a *General Court* of the *Adventurers*, or by a *Court of Committees* to be by them appointed.